



Patent  
Attorney's Docket No. 004900-148

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of )  
Evelyne PRAT et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1754  
Application No.: 08/765,901 ) Examiner: S. Hendrickson  
Filed: January 7, 1997 )  
For: CONCENTRATED SUSPENSION )  
PRECIPITATION SILICA, METHODS )  
OF PREPARATION AND )  
UTILISATION OF SAID SUSPENSION )

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VP  
9/18/01

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SEP 14 2001

**TC 1700**

**REPLY AND AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Official Action issued May 11, 2001, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend Claims 22 and 31 as follows:

22. (twice amended) An aqueous suspension consisting essentially of precipitated silica, having a solids content between 10 and 40% by weight, a viscosity lower than  $4 \times 10^{-2}$  Pa.s at a shear rate of  $50 \text{ s}^{-1}$  and wherein the amount of silica present in the supernatant obtained after centrifuging said suspension at 7500 revolutions per minute for 30 minutes represents more than 50 % of the weight of the silica present in the suspension.

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SUB #1